

Segovia & La Granja

Segovia

Segovia is Spain and Castile at its best - twisting alleyways, the highest concentration of Romanesque churches in all Europe, pedestrian streets where no cars are allowed, all surrounded by the city's medieval wall which itself is bordered by two rivers and an extensive green-belt park with miles of shaded walks. On the north-west end of the wall is the famous [Alcázar](#) castle, a source of inspiration for Walt Disney, and where Queen Isabel promised Columbus the financial backing he needed to discover America. To the south-east is the world-renowned Roman Aqueduct, the largest and best preserved of its kind anywhere, which served as the mintmark on all coins struck in the city from 1455 to 1864. The tallest building in Segovia is still the 16th-century Cathedral, a prominent landmark that can be seen on all approaches to the city.



La Granja

The Royal Seat of La Granja is on the northern side of the Guadarrama Mountains, some 90 kilometres from Madrid.

King Philip V retired to La Granja in 1724, and during the following twenty years enlarged the gardens and the Palace, which was used as a Summer Residence by all his successors down to King Alfonso XIII. Restoration work has recently been carried out on the buildings, and the collections in the State Rooms have been restored and rearranged, with the aim of recreating the atmosphere of the time of Philip V.

